

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A semiconductor device comprising:
a superlattice comprising a plurality of stacked groups of layers; and
regions for causing transport of charge carriers through said superlattice in a parallel direction relative to the stacked groups of layers;
each group of layers of said superlattice comprising a plurality of stacked base semiconductor monolayers defining a base semiconductor portion and an energy band-modifying layer thereon;
said energy-band modifying layer comprising at least one non-semiconductor monolayer constrained within a crystal lattice of adjacent base semiconductor portions so that said superlattice has a higher charge carrier mobility in the parallel direction than would otherwise be present.
2. A semiconductor device according to Claim 1 wherein said superlattice has a common energy band structure therein.
3. A semiconductor device according to Claim 1 wherein the charge carriers having the higher mobility comprise at least one of electrons and holes.
4. A semiconductor device according to Claim 1 wherein each base semiconductor portion comprises silicon.
5. A semiconductor device according to Claim 1 wherein each energy band-modifying layer comprises oxygen.

6. A semiconductor device according to Claim 1 wherein each energy band-modifying layer is a single monolayer thick.

7. A semiconductor device according to Claim 1 wherein each base semiconductor portion is less than eight monolayers thick.

8. A semiconductor device according to Claim 1 wherein each base semiconductor portion is two to six monolayers thick.

9. A semiconductor device according to Claim 1 wherein said superlattice further has a substantially direct energy bandgap.

10. A semiconductor device according to Claim 1 wherein said superlattice further comprises a base semiconductor cap layer on an uppermost group of layers.

11. A semiconductor device according to Claim 1 wherein all of said base semiconductor portions are a same number of monolayers thick.

12. A semiconductor device according to Claim 1 wherein at least some of said base semiconductor portions are a different number of monolayers thick.

13. A semiconductor device according to Claim 1 wherein all of said base semiconductor portions are a different number of monolayers thick.

14. A semiconductor device according to Claim 1 wherein each non-semiconductor monolayer is thermally stable through deposition of a next layer.

15. A semiconductor device according to Claim 1 wherein each base semiconductor portion comprises a base semiconductor selected from the group consisting of Group IV semiconductors, Group III-V semiconductors, and Group II-VI semiconductors.

16. A semiconductor device according to Claim 1 wherein each energy band-modifying layer comprises a non-semiconductor selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, fluorine, and carbon-oxygen.

17. A semiconductor device according to Claim 1 further comprising a substrate adjacent said superlattice.

18. A semiconductor device according to Claim 1 wherein the higher charge carrier mobility results from a lower conductivity effective mass for the charge carriers in the parallel direction than would otherwise be present.

19. A semiconductor device according to Claim 18 wherein the lower conductivity effective mass is less than two-thirds the conductivity effective mass that would otherwise occur.

20. A semiconductor device according to Claim 1 wherein said superlattice further comprises at least one type of conductivity dopant therein.

21. A semiconductor device comprising:
a superlattice comprising a plurality of stacked
groups of layers; and

regions for causing transport of charge carriers
through said superlattice in a parallel direction relative
to the stacked groups of layers;

each group of layers of said superlattice
comprising a plurality of stacked silicon monolayers
defining a silicon portion and an energy band-modifying
layer thereon;

said energy-band modifying layer comprising at
least one oxygen monolayer constrained within a crystal
lattice of adjacent silicon portions so that said
superlattice has a higher charge carrier mobility in the
parallel direction than would otherwise be present.

22. A semiconductor device according to Claim 21
wherein said superlattice has a common energy band
structure therein.

23. A semiconductor device according to Claim 21
wherein the charge carriers having the higher mobility
comprise at least one of electrons and holes.

24. A semiconductor device according to Claim 21
wherein each energy band-modifying layer is a single
monolayer thick.

25. A semiconductor device according to Claim 21
wherein each silicon portion is less than eight monolayers
thick.

26. A semiconductor device according to Claim 21 wherein each silicon portion is two to six monolayers thick.

27. A semiconductor device according to Claim 21 wherein said superlattice further has a substantially direct energy bandgap.

28. A semiconductor device according to Claim 21 wherein said superlattice further comprises a silicon cap layer on an uppermost group of layers.

29. A semiconductor device according to Claim 21 wherein all of said silicon portions are a same number of atomic layers thick.

30. A semiconductor device according to Claim 21 wherein at least some of said silicon portions are a different number of monolayers thick.

31. A semiconductor device according to Claim 21 wherein all of said silicon portions are a different number of monolayers thick.

32. A semiconductor device according to Claim 21 further comprising a substrate adjacent said superlattice.

33. A semiconductor device according to Claim 21 wherein the higher charge carrier mobility results from a lower conductivity effective mass in the parallel direction than would otherwise be present.

34. A semiconductor device according to Claim 21 wherein said superlattice further comprises at least one type of conductivity dopant therein.

35. A semiconductor device comprising:
a superlattice comprising a plurality of stacked groups of layers; and
regions adjacent said superlattice for causing transport of charge carriers through said superlattice in a parallel direction relative to the stacked groups of layers;
each group of layers of said superlattice comprising less than eight stacked base semiconductor monolayers defining a base semiconductor portion and an energy band-modifying layer thereon;
said energy-band modifying layer comprising a single non-semiconductor monolayer constrained within a crystal lattice of adjacent base semiconductor portions so that said superlattice has a higher charge carrier mobility in the parallel direction than would otherwise be present.

36. A semiconductor device according to Claim 35 wherein said superlattice has a common energy band structure therein.

37. A semiconductor device according to Claim 35 wherein the charge carriers having the higher mobility comprise at least one of electrons and holes.

38. A semiconductor device according to Claim 35 wherein said superlattice further has a substantially direct energy bandgap.

39. A semiconductor device according to Claim 35 wherein said superlattice further comprises a base semiconductor cap layer on an uppermost group of layers.

40. A semiconductor device according to Claim 35 wherein all of said base semiconductor portions are a same number of monolayers thick.

41. A semiconductor device according to Claim 35 wherein at least some of said base semiconductor portions are a different number of monolayers thick.

42. A semiconductor device according to Claim 35 wherein all of said base semiconductor portions are a different number of monolayers thick.

43. A semiconductor device according to Claim 35 further comprising a substrate adjacent said superlattice.

44. A semiconductor device according to Claim 35 wherein the higher charge carrier mobility results from a lower conductivity effective mass in the parallel direction than would otherwise be present.

45. A semiconductor device according to Claim 35 wherein said superlattice further comprises at least one type of conductivity dopant therein.

46. A semiconductor device comprising:
a superlattice comprising a plurality of stacked
groups of layers; and

regions for causing transport of charge carriers
through said superlattice in a parallel direction relative
to the stacked groups of layers;

each group of layers of said superlattice
comprising less than eight stacked silicon monolayers
defining a silicon portion and an energy band-modifying
layer thereon;

said energy-band modifying layer comprising a
single oxygen monolayer constrained within a crystal
lattice of adjacent silicon portions.

47. A semiconductor device according to Claim 46
wherein said superlattice further comprises a base
semiconductor cap layer on an uppermost group of layers.

48. A semiconductor device according to Claim 46
wherein all of said base semiconductor portions are a same
number of monolayers thick.

49. A semiconductor device according to Claim 46
wherein at least some of said base semiconductor portions
are a different number of monolayers thick.

50. A semiconductor device according to Claim 46
wherein all of said base semiconductor portions are a
different number of monolayers thick.

51. A semiconductor device according to Claim 46
further comprising a substrate adjacent said superlattice.

52. A semiconductor device according to Claim 46 wherein said superlattice further comprises at least one type of conductivity dopant therein.

53. A semiconductor device comprising:
a superlattice comprising a plurality of stacked groups of layers; and
regions for causing transport of charge carriers through said superlattice in a parallel direction relative to the stacked groups of layers;

each group of layers of said superlattice comprising a plurality of stacked base semiconductor monolayers defining a base semiconductor portion and an energy band-modifying layer thereon;

said energy-band modifying layer comprising at least one non-semiconductor monolayer constrained within a crystal lattice of adjacent base semiconductor portions so that said superlattice has a lower conductivity effective mass in the parallel direction than would otherwise be present.

54. A semiconductor device according to Claim 53 wherein said superlattice has a common energy band structure therein.

55. A semiconductor device according to Claim 53 wherein the charge carriers having the lower conductivity effective mass comprise at least one of electrons and holes.

56. A semiconductor device according to Claim 53 wherein each base semiconductor portion comprises silicon.

57. A semiconductor device according to Claim 53 wherein each energy band-modifying layer comprises oxygen.

58. A semiconductor device according to Claim 53 wherein each energy band-modifying layer is a single monolayer thick.

59. A semiconductor device according to Claim 53 wherein each base semiconductor portion is less than eight monolayers thick.

60. A semiconductor device according to Claim 53 wherein each base semiconductor portion is two to six monolayers thick.

61. A semiconductor device according to Claim 53 wherein said superlattice further has a substantially direct energy bandgap.

62. A semiconductor device according to Claim 53 wherein said superlattice further comprises a base semiconductor cap layer on an uppermost group of layers.

63. A semiconductor device according to Claim 53 wherein all of said base semiconductor portions are a same number of monolayers thick.

64. A semiconductor device according to Claim 53 wherein at least some of said base semiconductor portions are a different number of monolayers thick.

65. A semiconductor device according to Claim 53 wherein all of said base semiconductor portions are a different number of monolayers thick.

66. A semiconductor device according to Claim 53 wherein each non-semiconductor monolayer is thermally stable through deposition of a next layer.

67. A semiconductor device according to Claim 53 wherein each base semiconductor portion comprises a base semiconductor selected from the group consisting of Group IV semiconductors, Group III-V semiconductors, and Group II-VI semiconductors.

68. A semiconductor device according to Claim 53 wherein each energy band-modifying layer comprises a non-semiconductor selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, fluorine, and carbon-oxygen.

69. A semiconductor device according to Claim 53 further comprising a substrate adjacent said superlattice.

70. A semiconductor device according to Claim 53 wherein the lower conductivity effective mass is less than two-thirds the conductivity effective mass that would otherwise occur.

71. A semiconductor device according to Claim 53 wherein said superlattice further comprises at least one type of conductivity dopant therein.